

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) Slat for a laser beam-cutting machine table, ~~consisting of~~ comprising a trough  $[(9)]$  which contains a plurality of juxtaposed inserts  $[(10)]$  arranged parallel or substantially parallel to one another, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each insert  $[(10)]$  takes the form of a folded thin sheet-metal plate comprising at least two parts connected along a fold line  $[(23)]$ , a first part arranged substantially parallel to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constituting a support strip  $[(20)]$  whose free upper edge  $[(25)]$  forms a support element for the product  $[(4)]$  to be cut, and a second part which is inclined with respect to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constitutes an oblique strip  $[(21)]$  for deflecting the laser beam  $[(3)]$ .
2. (currently amended) Slat according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each insert  $[(10)]$  additionally comprises a third part, which is substantially parallel to the first part and forms a heel  $[(22)]$  connected to the oblique strip  $[(21)]$  along another fold line  $[(24)]$ .
3. (currently amended) Slat according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distance  $e$  separating the plane of the support strip  $[(20)]$  and the plane of the heel  $[(22)]$  is greater than or equal to the distance  $d$  between two juxtaposed inserts  $[(10)]$ .
4. (currently amended) Slat according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inserts  $[(10)]$  are fastened to the support trough  $[(9)]$  via means which allow them to be disassembled.

5. (currently amended) Slat according to Claim 4, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the slat comprises a trough  $[(9)]$  having in particular two lateral walls  $[(13)]$  whose upper ends  $[(16)]$  are folded inwards, each forming an oblique fold provided with a plurality of openings or slots  $[(17, 17')]$  distributed over the whole length of the said folds  $[(16)]$ , which openings  $[(17, 17')]$  ensure that the inserts  $[(10)]$  are distributed and accommodate lugs  $[(33)]$  formed on each side edge  $[(31)]$  of the said inserts  $[(10)]$ , the assembly of the lugs  $[(33)]$  in the corresponding openings  $[(17, 17')]$  taking place elastically and by clipping.

6. (currently amended) Slat according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the insert  $[(10)]$  has a material void  $[(34)]$  over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert  $[(10)]$ , which void  $[(34)]$  makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert  $[(10)]$ , and consequently that of the slat  $[(8)]$ , and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats  $[(8)]$ .

7. (currently amended) ~~Inserts~~ An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat ~~according to any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ comprising a folded thin sheet-metal plate comprising at least two parts connected along a fold line, a first part arranged substantially parallel to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constituting a support strip whose free upper edge forms a support element for the product to be cut, and a second part which is inclined with respect to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constitutes an oblique strip for deflecting the laser beam.

8. (currently amended) Laser-cutting machine table, ~~characterized in that it consists of~~ comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats ~~[(8)] according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 a~~ trough which contains a plurality of juxtaposed inserts arranged parallel or substantially parallel to one another, wherein each insert takes the form of a folded thin sheet-metal plate comprising at least two parts connected along a fold line, a first part arranged substantially parallel to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constituting a support strip whose free upper edge forms a support element for the product to be cut, and a second part which is inclined with respect to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constitutes an oblique strip for deflecting the laser beam.

9. (new) Slat according to Claim 2, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.

10. (new) Slat according to Claim 3, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.

11. (new) Slat according to Claim 2, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

12. (new) Slat according to Claim 3, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

13. (new) Slat according to Claim 4, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

14. (new) Slat according to Claim 5, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

15. (new) An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat according to Claim 7, wherein each insert additionally comprises a third part, which is substantially parallel to the first part and forms a heel connected to the oblique strip along another fold line.

16. (new) An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat according to Claim 15, wherein the distance e separating the plane of the support strip and the plane of the heel is greater than or equal to the distance d between two juxtaposed inserts.

17. (new) An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat according to Claim 7, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.

18. (new) An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat according to Claim 17, wherein the slat comprises a trough having in particular two lateral walls whose upper ends are folded inwards, each forming an oblique fold provided with a plurality of openings or slots distributed over the whole length of the said folds, which openings ensure that the inserts are distributed and accommodate lugs formed on each side edge of the said inserts, the assembly of the lugs in the corresponding openings taking place elastically and by clipping.

19. (new) An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat according to Claim 7, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.
20. (new) An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat according to Claim 19, wherein each insert additionally comprises a third part, which is substantially parallel to the first part and forms a heel connected to the oblique strip along another fold line.
21. (new) An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat according to Claim 20, wherein the distance  $e$  separating the plane of the support strip and the plane of the heel is greater than or equal to the distance  $d$  between two juxtaposed inserts.
22. (new) An insert for a laser-cutting machine table slat according to Claim 21, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.
23. (new) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 8, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein each insert additionally comprises a third part, which is substantially parallel to the first part and forms a heel connected to the oblique strip along another fold line.
24. (new) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 23, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein the distance  $e$  separating the plane of the support strip and the plane of the heel is greater than or equal to the distance  $d$  between two juxtaposed inserts.
25. (new) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 24, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.

26. (new) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 25, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein the slat comprises a trough having in particular two lateral walls whose upper ends are folded inwards, each forming an oblique fold provided with a plurality of openings or slots distributed over the whole length of the said folds, which openings ensure that the inserts are distributed and accommodate lugs formed on each side edge of the said inserts, the assembly of the lugs in the corresponding openings taking place elastically and by clipping.

27. (new) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 26, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.